

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Warm Water Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	August 20, 2016	9:30 am	Grand Lodge Water Park, Wausau
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Joe Weiss at 9:35
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Joe Weiss, Rich Olson, Larry Damman, Wallt Trudeau, Kurt Justice, Steve Budnik, Bob Bohardt, Peter Doperalski, Geraid Merryfield, Randy Symicek, Wayne Schmidt, Tyrone Larson, Mark Saemisch, Mike Arrowood, Scott Stook, Harry Bowey, Gregery Wells, John Nelson, Brett Weir, Mike Gould, John Blumreich, Mark Krmpotich DNR Liasons Kate Strom-Hiorns, Andrew Rypel, Rick Rosen
EXCUSED	Allen Brown, John Hacker, Bob McNeill, Paul Reith, David Poff
UNEXCUSED	Darrell Brathol
GUESTS	

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Brett Moved to do resolutions out of order so authors present could go first. 2nd Wally, No discussion
ACTION	Carried

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Weiss read mission Statement
ACTION	No motions made.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	DNR fish biologists had sent written comments on the resolutions
ACTION	Copies distributed to each member

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. EARLY BASS CATCH AND RELEASE #180116

JOHN MERRYFIELD

DISCUSSION	The author is 14 feels that bass opportunities are limited and bass are hardy for release fishing. DNR response was it becomes a C/R season for all game fish because you can't distinguish between methods targeting bass or other gamefish. Move to advance Merryfield, 2nd Saenisch. A lot of discussion about whether mortality on other species might increase or not due to catching or foul hooking of other species during their closed season. Should barbless hooks be considered. Good thing for the new college bass leagues so they could get more practice and tournaments within the school year. Might work best on selected bass waters rather than all waters.
ACTION	Motion to advance carried.
THE CHAIR WILL FORWARD ALL ADVANCED RESOLUTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR FINAL REVIEW	
DEADLINE	

B. PELICAN LAKE BASS LIMITS # 440516

ED RUECKL

DISCUSSION	Rusty crayfish have declined, panfish scarce, only 149 SMB and 30 LMB harvested in creel. Like to eat fish but 18 is to big to eat healthily. Tech bulletin 48 said 8 inch size limit on Nebish was a problem. Been 18 on pelican for 20 years. Youth need fishing experience that includes harvest opportunity. Local fish mgr. response felt reg was working but a 14-18 protective slot preferred over 14 minimum. Arrowhead moved to advance, 2nd Symicek. Discussion on whether bass were still needed for crayfish control. Conflict between DNR report of low abundance but also slow growth rates that would indicate future bass would not grow to 18 inches
ACTION	advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

C. CASTLE ROCK BOW FISHING # 010216

Joe Stuchlak

DISCUSSION	large concentrations of carp occur by flood gates with minimal gamefish present. DNR response said hand spearing within 200 feet was approved 2 years ago. Hand spearing is restricted dawn to dusk but bow fishing by law is open 24 hours. Saemisch moved to advance 2nd Trudeau
ACTION	advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

C. CISCO BAG LIMIT #240116

GEORGE KING

DISCUSSION	Anglers don't typically carry scales. Fishing pressure for cisco on Green lake greatly increasing. 10 bag would be same as great lakes but guides would prefer a 15 bag on Green. DNR found state wide 10 bag ok for consistency but questioned if there was evidence of over harvest especially on Green. Harry moved to advance, 2nd Budnik.
ACTION	Advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	
DEADLINE	

C. 50 INCH MUSKY LIMIT WISCONSIN RIVER ADAMS COUNTY #010116

JOE STUHLAK

DISCUSSION	Muskie fisherman at his bait shop pushed him to make resolution. Could be special to local economy. DNR says growth supports trophy mgt and is planning to propose a 50 on all the lower River counties. Wells to advance 2nd Tyrone. Discussion revolved around whether big size limit actually produces more trophy fish or if its a feel good rule. Male musky rarely reach much above 40 inches. Even though DNR is proposing a broader rule it would be good to advance this too. DNR planned to propose this for Lower River 2 years ago but didn't follow thru so we should advance in case DNR backs out again. Surveys show higher than expected pressure and exploitation.
ACTION	Advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. CLOSE A PORTION OF FOX R. BELOW DEPERE DAM IN SPRING #360116

TOM SPRANG

DISCUSSION	Fishing pressure increasing and success decreasing. Have closed seasons most everywhere else. All walleyes in lower Green Bay are concentrated here. Weiss ask how big the existing refuge was ? about 100 yds from dam. Brett to advance Jerry 2nd. Guides fish it cause its open but feel bad about it. People without boats would lose some popular bank fishing areas. The main launch would be in closed area but could still be used. Walleye population is booming in Bay with no signs of over harvest in river. with a 28 inch Limit. Eggs lost in boats are not significant to population. very important to local economy now. Would closure push spring anglers to other open waters with less health populations? Motion to advance failed. Olson moved to reject. 2nd Nelson. Carried
ACTION	Failed
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. FALL STURGEON CATCH AND RELEASE ON WOLF R. #690416

BILL STOEGER

DISCUSSION	Sturgeon are frequently caught incidentally. Mark to advance 2nd John. Much discussion about whether sturgeon were good candidates for c/r without excessive mortality. DNR actually uses hook and line as a survey technique with good success. Fish rarely hooked deep. Proposal is a little vague because the season dates and stretch of open river and gear types like circle hooks aren't addressed. Could be concurrent with the hook and line season elsewhere. DNR sturgeon committee could flesh out details if passed statewide. Incidental catches now with photo taking aren't a problem. But a season on this particular river would likely create a world wide destination fishery. Good for economy but heavy pressure could complicate present mgt as a spearing resource. Violators especially for black market caviar would be harder to detect. Motion to advance failed. Motion to reject carried. Discussion continued as to whether the committee should submit its own tighter written resolution about this. By show of hands the decision was against proceeding with a committee resolution.
ACTION	Rejected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**C. WALLEYE LIMITS ON BLACKHAWK, COX HOLLOW
AND TWIN VALLEY LAKES #250216**

DOUG RISCH

DISCUSSION	Small lakes with extremely high fishing. Contended it was uneconomical to stock under this reg because annual mortality factors including emigration over the dams but no evidence anecdotal or otherwise was offered. The 1 bag rather than the regional 5 bag was to distribute harvest. DNR response was these are put and grow stocked fisheries and regs are more social than biological. The county vote passed by 2 votes. Motion to reject by ? 2nd Olson carried	
ACTION	rejected	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. GROUP BAGGING #660116

DISCUSSION	Reject by Mike 2nd Mark. Author believes it is unlawful for anglers to use the same live well or bucket for their catch. Warden Rosen assured committee that is not true. Wardens would have to have other evidence that someone over bagged. Even though its technically a violation of law and sportsmanship to over bag guys fishing together is not a big over harvest problem. However if group bagging was legal the concept of a daily bag would be gone as you could give fish away to anyone in the area or call people to come fish with you a little while and they could take the fish home and the successful/skilled angler could continue to take fish.	
ACTION	Rejected	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**C. ALLOW UNUSED UPRIVER STURGEON SPEARING
TAGS ON WINNEBAGO #520116**

DISCUSSION	Reject by Doperalski 2nd Mark. Biggest concern is there is a 7 year waiting period for upriver tags now and this could encourage more applicant and cause longer wait times.	
ACTION	rejected	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. MULTI SPECIES PROPOSAL BOOTH LAKE #650116

DISCUSSION	DNR response was a private survey was done that was of questionable value and the lake only has a private access. Mark to reject 2nd Brett. carried without discussion.	
ACTION	Rejected.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

C. MUSKIE INCREASE ON KATHERINE LAKE AND WILLOW FLOW AGE #440116 + #440216

DISCUSSION	DNR response was both lakes are low density with trophy potential. 50 is more of a social issue so would support if public does. Budnik to advance 2nd Mark.Olson asked if we should do both lakes at once. The motion and second consented. A separate motion and second was made or assumed to have been made and vote taken to on whether to consider both lakes together which passed. The popular belief that musky only eat your favorite game fish isn't true. 50 is a c/r reg. with high limits stocking rates might be lowered.
ACTION	#440116 advanced #440216 advanced
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. NORTHERN WISCONSIN MUSKIE SEASON #640316

DISCUSSION	DNR interested in public response but maybe concern with mortality from longer bait fishing especially thru the ice and ice fisherman may be more harvest oriented.? to reject Bowey 2nd. Would be better for just open water. Ice fisherman don't attend lines as fast. We keep hearing we need very restrictive size limits because even low musky mortality affects trophy potential so why add more time to increase hooking mortality.
ACTION	rejected.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. REPORT PANFISH VIOLATIONS #050516

DISCUSSION	DNR response was the limited data generated could not be correlated with lake surveys. Tyrone to reject 2nd Scott concern that panfish evaluation wouldn't be complete until 2022 DNR repel said their would be a mid point report. carried
ACTION	regected
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. YEAR ROUND SPEARING BELOW DAMS #540716

DISCUSSION	A unnamed motioner and second to advance came. Night spearing seems to biggest problem for enforcement. vote was a tie Chair broke the tie to advance..
ACTION	Advance
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. 24 HOUR SPEARING # 540816

DISCUSSION	Brett to reject 2nd Doperalski to many gamefish without time frame, enforcement coverage.carried
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ACTION	rejected.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. RULE SIMPLIFICATION/ BAIT SURVEY

STROM-HIORNS

DISCUSSION	DNR is considering changing bait harvest rules to better accommodate personal harvest. A survey was past out for members to select preferred options.
ACTION	surveys filled out by each member.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Thanked DNR for getting response to members before meeting. Arrowood advised members to keep tabs on attempts to expand commercial fishing and gear types in Greenbay and effort to allow commercial fisherman to keep by-catch of gamefish. Good mtg site.Works good to set date year in advance.Olson said we need a FishDAC like CDAC is for deer so there is more local control of local fisheries. Also money is tight so we need to look for funding sources and hatchery support. Weiss noted that a new group Damman is with is doing just that for Spooner Hatchery. Damman describe role of the FISH friends group which promotes hatchery activities, public education and fund raising. Latest project is adopt a pit tagged muskie on Chippewa flow age. Proceeds go to special projects to rear fish and inform hatchery visitors of the role of hatcheries that are not covered in DNR budget.
ACTION	Weiss announce next years meeting is set for August 19 with place to be determined

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	2:08 pm
SUBMITTED BY	Larry Damman
DATE	8-26-2016